

Japanese Thought of the Oriental.

The policy of marking out spheres of influence by different powers in China has so far been a matter of tacit understanding. Russia, Germany, England, and even Japan seem to look upon the concessions obtained from China as the first step toward the ultimate realization of their greedy end. This, however, argues the *Tokyo Asahi*, could afford but temporary satisfaction to the powers, and hence the policy has entered upon the second stage of its development, when the Anglo-Russian agreement defined for the two powers the exact boundaries of their respective spheres, which example the journal is certain will be followed by an Anglo-French and an Anglo-Italian, and, in fact, all sorts of *entente*. But in the journal's opinion, the spirit of the aggressive moves by the powers is the grabbing at gains, or more respectfully called, the development of their commercial and industrial interests. With the exception of Russia, in which, still survives a tinge of mediaeval love of territorial conquests, all the powers are governed by the sole desire of applying their surplus capital to the inexhaustible resources of China, and of reaping the profits of their commercial and industrial activities. If this object be realized, the journal doubts whether the powers would care much even were their rulers still Mandarins. Only the lax, irresponsible government by the Mandarins would not be a sure guarantee for the safety of foreigners' person and property; and it is this, our contemporary believes, which will serve as the pretext for the coercing by the powers the transference of government from Mandarins to their hands. This will be the third stage in the development of the policy. Arrived at that stage, the spheres of influence will have become partitioned territories, or colonial tributaries. To those that would object to this pitiless forecast for China's future, our contemporary would reply that China in the present state of impotence is no more able to escape the fatal end than Africa in the hands of European powers.

OUR INFLUENCE IN KOREA.

Besides Japan's justifiable claims upon China, the *Tokyo Asahi* finds an exclusive sphere of influence for her in Korea, with regard to which an explicit clause in the Russo-Japanese protocol allows Japan to establish the closest trade and industrial relations. We have been, however, the journal thinks, making but slow progress with the task of establishing our interests in that

country, and opportunities like the present uprising of the *Nan-hak* malcontents should be availed of for ingratiating ourselves with that impotent government, by the prompt dispatch of a man-of-war to Chemulpo not only with the object of guarding our interests there, but also to be prepared if necessary, to undertake the work of suppression of the riots in aid of the helpless country.

THE FORMOSAN GOVERNMENT.

The *Osaka Asahi* is determined that the administration of Formosa, which has proved ever since the acquisition of the island constant source of trouble to us, should be nevertheless pushed on to success at whatever cost. For that end, the journal would give all the appropriations needed for its efficient administration, and would leave the matter of expenditure much to the discretion of the island government. As to putting an end to the continual uprisings of the raiders, the journal sees no more efficient means than the construction of railways. It is a great pity, thinks the journal, that the Formosan Railway Company that was organized against great odds but under a favorable subsidy from the government, should now have relapsed to a state of utter collapse and be petitioning for government help. The journal holds that the government which exerted its utmost influence for the existence of the company, should now share the obligations of the enterprise, and should now undertake on its own account the completion of the most important means of humanizing the benighted islanders. (The government has decided with the consent of the Diet to construct on its own account railways in Formosa. Ed. J. T.) What gives more hope for a better government of the territory is the extensive subscription given to the shares of the new Formosa Bank. With the necessary capital on hand, the journal is confident that the government will be now on a highway of realizing all its reforms for Formosa. One thing against which it warns the authorities is their time complaisance toward a few foreigners' opinions, a chronic weakness in the superannuated minds of the clan extraction, which the journal hopes will be remedied by the appointment of new men to the offices in the island government. If again, a change be contemplated in the government, our contemporary can recommend no other than either one of the two names; Viscount Katsura, who was once appointed but who has never actively assumed the office, or Marquis Ito, who is reported to have assured Li Hung Chang of the successful government of the island in our hands.

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